



## IN MISSOURI, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$565.2 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 9,100 EDUCATOR JOBS

*The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will save or create nearly 400,000 education jobs through critical investments in the education of our nation's children. Specifically, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will invest \$30 billion to support state and local efforts to retain, rehire, and hire early childhood, elementary, and secondary educators. Facing an \$850 million projected budget shortfall in 2013, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Missouri teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Missouri with an additional \$565.2 million in funds that will support 9,100 education jobs, provide a jolt to the state economy, and improve the quality of education. By asking millionaires to pay their fair share, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will grow the Missouri economy without adding a dime to the deficit.*

**In Missouri, 3,300 Local Government Jobs Have Been Lost Since 2008, Including Teachers.** As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Missouri faced a budget shortfall of \$704 million in 2012, a staggering 8.9% of the state's General Fund. Given the dramatic reduction in state revenue, the state was forced to slash funding for programs and services. As a result, local government employment fell by 3,300 in Missouri, showing that teachers, police, firefighters, and other public employees faced layoffs. These unprecedented layoffs extended the recession and have slowed the recovery in Missouri. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/7/11](#); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed on [10/14/11](#)]

**With Fewer Teachers and Resources, Missouri School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students.** "Missouri is cutting its funding for K-12 transportation by 46 percent. The cut in funding likely will lead to longer bus rides and the elimination of routes for some of the 565,000 students who rely on the school bus system." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [2/9/11](#)]

**Democrats Helped Missouri Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Hundreds of Potential Layoffs.** Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Missouri school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 700 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 3,300 education jobs in Missouri. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]